The Animal Sacrifice

Mangaka: Ichiro Rin

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RAW Provision: Anonymous
Proofread: Anachorism, Keeshtihn, Ninjamuffin
Quality Check: Kaito, Yukihito

Translation: Yukihito
Clean & Redraw: Malu
Typeset: Kylie

I ALREADY TOLD THE MANAGER THAT SOMEONE WOULD GO IN MY PLACE.
CLAP
PLEASE! YOU'RE JUST GOING TO BE A SALES ASSISTANT!
PLEASE!
HWH.
I'll treat you to something at McDonald's!
I SUDDENLY GOT A TICKET TO A CONCERT I REALLY WANTED TO GO TO.
...IT'S HERE?
SO...
Toyo Department Store Rooftop
Lucky Animal Pet Shop
03-XXXX-XXXX
Shibuya
109
Yoshi-moto
On the rooftop of this building

The Animal Sacrifice

The Animal Sacrifice

一路凛
ICHIRO RIN

FROM THE WAY THINGS LOOK HERE, THERE'S NO WAY THERE COULD BE A SHOP ON THE ROOFTOP.
THE ELEVATOR IS PROBABLY BROKEN TOO...
!
.....
Lucky Animal Pet Shop
On the rooftop

!
...THAT TIRED ME OUT.
CLANG
CLANG
huff
huff
IT'S PITCH BLACK...
bzz
bzz
I GUESS THERE'S NO ONE HERE
clatter
clatter
IT REALLY IS HERE..
EXCUSE ME.
!?

MEOW
WHOA?!
WAIT, TEN BILLION!
YOU'VE GOT TO!
YOU OVER THERE! CATCH HIM!
HUH?!
TEN BILLION?!
SCRATCH
HUH?
TEN BILLION?!
YOU'RE SAFE~ TEN BILLION~
..THAT'S AN ODD NAME
I'm so glad
THIS CAT IS WORTH TEN BILLION-
OH? HEY, WHO ARE YOU?
..AH!
I look forward to working with you.
yes.
I'M EBI-SUMORI
THE PART-TIMER! TAKAGI-KUN'S REPLACEMENT!
EBISUMORI-KUN!
I HEARD YOUR PARENTS DIED IN A PLANE CRASH THAT HIJACKING INCIDENT, RIGHT?

THESE ANIMALS ARE NO ORDINARY PETS
SIP SIP
THANK YOU
Here you go
Well
HAVE SOME TEA
TAKAGI EVEN TOLD HIM ABOUT THAT...?!
!
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN TOUGH-
HAVE YOU HEARD OF
"SACRI-FICES"?
FOR MANY YEARS,
IT HAS BEEN THEIR DUTY TO ACT AS REPLACEMENTS FOR IMPORTANT PEOPLE AND PROTECT THEM FROM DISASTER
THERE ARE SOME INDIVIDUALS IN THIS WORLD
WHO ARE PRONE TO ENCOUNTERING DISASTER FROM THE MOMENT THEY ARE BORN.

OF COURSE, IN THE PAST THOSE SACRIFICES WERE HUMAN
BUT THAT CAN'T BE DONE NOW, CAN IT?
click
IN OTHER WORDS, THESE ANIMALS
ARE THE ONES THAT ENDURE THOSE DISASTERS INSTEAD.
"ANIMAL SACRIFICES"
IS WHAT THEY ARE.

BEING A SACRIFICE IS AN ANCIENT OCCUPATION THAT'S EVEN MENTIONED IN "THE CHRONICLES OF JAPAN" AND THE "GISHI-WAJIN-DEN".
.....
THEY'RE JUST LUCKY CHARMS
DON'T BE SO SCARED!

The Chronicles of Japan - The second oldest book of classical Japanese history.
Gishi-wajin-den - A chapter of the Chinese historical and geographical book, *Sangokushi*, which is dedicated to Japan.

LOOK,
clatter clatter
WE HAVE A CUSTOMER.
IT'S A FIRST CLASS SACRIFICE.
AND WAS THE ONLY SURVIVING CREATURE.
THIS ABYSSINIAN WAS WASHED AWAY DURING A TSUNAMI IN THAILAND
SORRY FOR THE WAIT.
WHISPER
GOOD EVENING, NAMIKAWA-SAMA
HE'S THE PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARY

THE CURRENT PRIME MINISTER IS TREADING ON QUITE DANGEROUS GROUND..
THAT'S THE FOURTH ANIMAL HE'S BOUGHT.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
clatter clatter
THUMP
BUT BECAUSE HE'S BOUGHT FOUR PETS,
DOESN'T THAT MEAN THE OTHER THREE WERE USEFUL?
click
USEFUL..?
WHO KNOWS..?
SLAM
neiheiheihe
HMM..
WELL..
BUT WHY DID IT BECOME A SACRIFICE?
SO IT SURVIVED A TSUNAMI,
HMM...
THAT CAT FROM EARLIER...

IT'S NO GOOD IF THEY'RE JUST MORE LIKELY TO ENCOUNTER DISASTER, RIGHT?
THE GOOD FORTUNE TO SURVIVE A GREAT DISASTER
IS EVIDENCE THAT THEY ARE SACRIFICES
THIS ONE SURVIVED A FOREST FIRE IN CALIFORNIA
SACRIFICES ARE ALL
SURVIVORS OF SOMETHING.
!
THESE ANIMALS ARE...
THIS ONE
CAME OUT FROM THE BELLY OF A WHALE THAT WASHED ASHORE.

SLUMP
UH...
COUGH
!?
!
SURVIVORS TOO...
THE TEA FROM EARLIER..?!
UH...
COUGH
COUGH
TAP
EBISUMORI-KUN.
THE PLANE CRASH WHERE YOUR PARENTS DIED...
YOU WERE ON THAT PLANE TOO, WEREN'T YOU?

THEY DON'T COME ALONG OFTEN.
HUMAN "SACRIFICES", THAT IS.
THE HIJACKED JUMBO JET THAT CRASHED, KILLING 427 PEOPLE.
YOU WERE THE ONLY SURVIVOR.
!
huff
huff
THEN THERE WAS THAT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FIELD TRIP.
YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE SAVED WHEN THE BUS FELL OFF A CLIFF...
BANG
AHH!
HOW COULD YOU DO THIS...?

OUR SURVIVAL
ISN'T AS SIMPLE AS YOU THINK!
GET AWAY FROM HERE!
HUH?
RUMBLE
!?
AN EARTH-QUAKE?!
HURRY UP!
clatter
HURRY UP AND GET OUT OF HERE!
RUMBLE
Hahaha!
IT'S OKAY!
THERE ARE PLENTY OF SACRIFICES HERE!
BANG

RUMBLE
WHA...
CRUSH
MANAGER!
THUD
THUD
THUD
I WAS ALWAYS,
ALWAYS,

JUST ME...
ALWAYS
THE ONE WHO WAS PROTECTED.
AND THE ONLY SURVIVOR...
IF YOU WANT TO CALL ME A SACRIFICE,
THEN GO AHEAD AND DO THAT.
BUT
I'VE NEVER PROTECTED ANYONE,
NOT EVEN ONCE.

NO ENTRY
TOYO DEPARTM STO
ARE YOU SERIOUS?! LOTS OF SCARY STUFF HAS BEEN HAPPENING RECENTLY
BANG
BANG
THEY DEMOLISHED THE ABANDONED DEPARTMENT STORE THAT WAS HERE?!
THAT TERRORIST ATTACK AT A CONCERT THE OTHER DAY WAS TERRIBLE.
THE RECENT EARTHQUAKE DESTROYED THE AMUSEMENT PARK ON THE ROOFTOP AND SOMEONE WAS KILLED.
NO ENTRY
PROBABLY SOMEONE DID ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE HIM BEFORE
WEREN'T THEY TARGETING THE PRIME MINISTER?
step
step
BUT I FEEL SORRY FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WHO GOT CAUGHT UP IN THE INCIDENT...
DID YOU WATCH THE NEWS? HE HAPPENED TO GET TICKETS THE DAY BEFORE, AND CHANGED SHIFTS AT HIS PART-TIME JOB.
I DID! HOW SCARY...

meow
HEY.
DO YOU KNOW THE REASON WHY
WE HAVE TO KEEP ON LIVING?
rub
I WONDER WHY WE DESIRE WARMTH
WHEN WE KNOW THAT
DESPAIR AWAITS US.
END
◆ PLEASE LOOK FORWARD TO ICHIRO RIN-SENSEI'S NEXT WORK!